

CERTAMEN MELASTOMATACEIS V.

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Due to the press of other commitments, Dr. Gleason left unfinished his studies on the many recent Colombian Blakeeae collections, chiefly those of Dr. Cuatrecasas. The Pacific Coast regions of Nariño, El Valle, and the Choco are undoubtedly the New World areas richest in members of this tribe; indeed, the plethora of species seems almost unbelievable. Apart from the suite described in this paper, other apparently distinct Colombian Blakeeae (fruiting only) remain undetermined at New York and Chicago, awaiting recollection in flower.

Unfortunately, several of the species first collected and described by Triana and unknown to both Cogniaux and Gleason remain unrecollected, at least as far as one can discern from the original descriptions. Dr. Maguire, during a recent European trip, could not locate these collections at either Paris or the British Museum; Dr. Uribe has informed me that they are not among the Triana specimens at Bogota. These "missing links" are Blakea quadrangularis, Topobea sessilifolia, T. glabrescens, and T. insignis. Other than these four unknowns, at least type photographs have been available for the Colombian species.

It has seemed best, pending a revision, to continue Cogniaux' and Gleason's maintenance of Blakea and Topobea as separate genera. Perhaps I am more tradition-bound than Macbride who united them in the Flora of Peru; however, at least in the many specimens which I have examined critically, the anther shape has left no doubt as to the convenient (and traditional) classification.

BLAKEA HYDRAEFORMIS Wurdack, sp. nov.

B. pilosae Gleason affinis sed cum foliorum lamina basi rotundata et superficie subtus cum pilis erectis stipitato-stellatis primum densiuscule vestita, bracteis exterioribus maioribus, calycis lobis vix distinctis cum sinibus latis concavisque.

Rami superiores cum pedicellis densissime lanuginoso-pilosi (pilis gracilibus plerumque 1-2 mm. longis) et ad nodos densissime setosi (setis erectis paleaceis 10-15 mm. longis). Petioli pilosi 0.5-1.3 cm. longi; lamina integra crasse coriacea supra nitida 15-30 (acumine excluso) X 7-11 cm. ovato-oblonga apice subabrupte acuminata (acumine 1-2 cm. longo) basi rotundata, 5-nervia nervis primariis supra